

flaring and installation of waste heat recovery systems in the oil sector, standardization of fuel-efficient irrigation pump sets, rectification of existing pumpsets to make them more energy efficient, rationalization of power tariffs and better cultivar practices in the agricultural sector etc. India also has the largest number of projects under the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) of the Kyoto Protocol, which reduce net emissions of greenhouse gases. Moreover, India has had, over the last 55 years of economic development, undertaken major programs addressing climate variability concerns. These include cyclone warning and protection, coastal protection, floods and drought control and relief, major and minor irrigation projects, control of malaria, food security measures and research on drought resistant crops, and several others.

Irregularities and mismanagement in Ganga Action Plan

†3254. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the allegations of irregularities and mismanagement in Ganga Action Plan has been levelled in Comptroller and Auditor General's report;

(b) if so, the action taken by Government in this regard;

(c) whether it is a fact that there has been no decrease in water pollution in Ganga despite spending crores of rupees on this project; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken by Government to make the river pollution free?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) The Report for the year ended March 2000 of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (No. 5A of 2000) on a review of the Ganga Action Plan from the 1993 to 2000, contained observations pertaining to delay in execution of works, discontinuation of Water Quality Monitoring, poor Operation and Maintenance (O&M) of assets created under the Programme in the States among others. Besides meeting the statutory obligation of providing Action Taken Report to the observations, the Government has taken remedial measures to improve the performance levels. These measures include strengthening of monitoring of the implementation of works, resumption of

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

water quality monitoring through independent agencies, and requirement of submission of a detailed O&M Plan by the State Governments before sanction of projects.

(c) and (d) The Ganga Action Plan (GAP), Phase-I, launched in the year 1985 to undertake various pollution abatement works for the river Ganga, was declared completed in March 2000 with the creation of sewage treatment capacity of 865 million litres per day (mld.) GAP Phase-II, which also includes Plans for its major tributaries namely, Yamuna, Gomti, Damodar and Mahananda, was approved in stages from 1993 onwards and sewage treatment capacity of 878 mld. has been created so far under the Plan. Water Quality Monitoring (WQM), undertaken by independent reputed institutions like Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. (BHEL), Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kanpur and Indian Toxicological Research Centre (ITRC), Lucknow indicate that water quality of the river Ganga has shown perceptible improvement at major locations over its pre-GAP quality.

CAG report regarding bungling in Project Tiger Funds

3255. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is bungling of Project Tiger funds in the country as per CAG Report;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) The Performance Audit of 'Conservation and Protection of Tigers in Tiger Reserves' has been done by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year ended March, 2005 (Report No. 18 of 2006). The said report has concluded that Government efforts had helped bringing into focus important conservation issues needing attention. It has also highlighted several longstanding problems with recommendations, which do not mention about bungling of funds.

(b) Question does not arise.